

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell , Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, John Knapp, David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, David Sneller, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; Church Representatives, John McHugh and William McConnell; Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey and Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrell.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Tom McHugh, Senior Depute Director of Finance; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Ken Hathaway, Client Services Manager; John McHarg, Maintenance Manager; Don Andrews, Senior Structural Engineer; Charlie McBreen, Senior Safety Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Graham Short, Head of Quality Development; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-Five Services); Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Douglas Reid, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors Daniel Coffey, George Smith and Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. In welcoming Members to the meeting of the Education Committee, the Chair highlighted a number of recent events in the Education Service for the information of Committee Members:-

(i) Court of Session Ruling - St Paul's Primary School, Hurlford

The Chair advised that, in late July 1997, the Court of Session upheld the ruling that East Ayrshire Council had acted properly when it consulted on, and subsequently closed, the former St Paul's Primary School in Hurlford. On two occasions the Council's actions had been subjected to detailed scrutiny and found to have acted properly on all counts.

(ii) Appointment of Depute Director of Education

The Chair also advised that Graham Short had been appointed to the post of Depute Director of Education with effect from 1 September 1997. Graham had been Head of Quality Development since the formation of the Council and will bring a wealth of experience in all educational issues to the post. The Committee wished him well in his new post.

(iii) Gaelic Medium Class, Onthank Primary School

Twelve pupils were welcomed to the Gaelic Medium Class which opened within Onthank Primary School at the beginning of the new term. East Ayrshire Council was the first authority in Ayrshire to open such a class and the Chair expressed his delight that the Council were able to offer Gaelic Education to these pupils.

(iv) Mount Carmel Primary School

A primary 2 pupil at Mount Carmel Primary School took the winning place in a poetry competition run by South Ayrshire Council for P1-P3. Alexandra McConnell was the only pupil from East Ayrshire to enter and took the winning place out of 1,100 entrants. Also, pupils from the school accompanied by the Head Teacher, Ann McAllister took part in the Glasgow Junior Marathon on 24 August 1997.

(v) St Xavier's Primary School

Primary 6/7 pupils at St Xavier's Primary School were joint winners in the Donald McLean Memorial Prize for Environmental Studies in June. Their work was displayed over the summer period. Donald McLean is a former colleague of Strathclyde Regional Council who died earlier this year.

(vi) Scottish Orienteering Competition

Two East Ayrshire schools achieved success in the Scottish orienteering competition held on 13 June. Crossroads Primary pupils, P5-6, won the gold medal whilst Gargieston Primary School took the silver medal.

(vii) The Princes Trust

Various educational establishments had benefitted from funding received through schemes run by the Princes Trust. The Princes Trust focuses on disadvantaged young people and the funds will be put towards worthwhile projects.

(viii) Hurlford Primary School

In referring to the recent building structural difficulties at Hurlford Primary School the Chair invited Councillors Fulton and Macrae to address the Committee.

Both Members wished to express their thanks and gratitude to the staff in Headquarters and to the Acting Head Teacher staff and pupils of Hurlford Primary School who had all worked extremely hard during the recent operation and requested that the Director of Education convey their appreciation to staff and pupils.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There was submitted and approved both as correct records and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as detailed in Appendices 1 to 5 of these Minutes.

2.1 JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS) - 28 MAY 1997 - APPENDIX I

- 2.2 CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 16 JUNE 1997 - APPENDIX II**
- 2.3 COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 17 JUNE 1997 - APPENDIX III**
- 2.4 BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 19 JUNE 1997 - APPENDIX IV**
- 2.5 CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 3 JULY 1997 - APPENDIX V**

BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENTS

- 3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Department of Education for the period ended 18 July 1997 (Period 4).

PROPOSED EARLY YEARS FORUM

- 4. There was submitted a report dated 16 July 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposal to establish an Early Years Forum in East Ayrshire and that it was proposed to launch the Forum at an event to be held in Grange Academy, Kilmarnock on Saturday 25 October 1997 from 1000 hours to 1600 hours.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that an Early Years Forum be established;
- (ii) that the Director of Education make the necessary arrangements to hold the launch event on Saturday 25 October 1997 from 1000 hours to 1600 hours in Grange Academy, Kilmarnock to promote the establishment of an Early Years Forum;
- (iii) that the Director of Education circulate information on the proposed event; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education report back to the Education Committee on the outcome of the event.

OPEN UNIVERSITY TRAINING DAY

- 5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposal to host a training seminar for representatives from the West of Scotland Local Authority Open University Consortium in Crosshouse Community Education Centre on 7 October 1997.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION (Item 2, Page 2163)

- 6. There was submitted a report dated 2 July 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the successful bid by East Ayrshire's Department of Education for funding from the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) Early Intervention Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the acceptance of the successful bid for funding under the Early Intervention Programme from the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) be supported;
- (ii) that the necessary funding in years 2 and 3 to secure the full Scottish Office grant be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Arising from a query from Councillor Nicoll regarding the number of Primary 1 to 3 classes in East Ayrshire with over 30 pupils, it was agreed that the Director of Education would provide information obtained from the survey which had recently been undertaken by the Department of Education directly to Councillor Nicoll.

REPORTING INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

6. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which (i) advised of a monitoring procedure which had been introduced by the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) and (ii) appended a circular which requested authorities to establish procedures for reporting, recording and monitoring incidents of violence against school staff.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the contents of the report from the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) be welcomed;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit an annual monitoring report to the Education Committee regarding incidents of violence; and
- (iii) that the policy and procedures in place in East Ayrshire on violence against staff in the Education Service be noted;
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ALTERNATIVES TO EXCLUSION: RESULT OF RECENT BID FOR SCOTTISH OFFICE FUNDING (Item 4, Page 2396)

7. There was submitted a report dated 6 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the successful outcome of the bid made under the Scottish Office's "Alternatives to Exclusion" Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the necessary funding to secure the full Scottish Office grant for years 2 and 3 for the project be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

It was also noted the Director of Education would be making arrangements for a presentation to be made to the Education Committee by Rathbone CI at a date to be agreed.

TEACHER APPRAISAL (Item 7, Page 2391)

8. There was submitted a report dated 20 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the progress on the Scheme of Review and Development for Teachers and which informed the Committee of recent information received from the Scottish Office and the Minister for Education regarding teacher appraisal.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the progress made on Teacher Appraisal be noted;
- (ii) that the Department of Education's proposals on the Scheme and Review and Development for Teachers be submitted to a future meeting of the Education Committee following discussion with the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers); and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROPERTY UPDATE (Item 5, Page 2397)

9. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised on progress relating to property issues.

9.1 ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 1055 hours and reconvened at 1100 hours with the same Members in attendance.

9.2 CONSIDERATION OF ITEM

It was agreed:-

- (i) to continue consideration of the future use of County Hall, Hurlford and receive future reports from the Director of Education following further consultation with user groups;
- (ii) to receive a programme detailing alternative provision for those who may be relocated in the event of the closure of County Hall, Hurlford; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the progress made in the report.

Councillor McCredie left the meeting at this point.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

10. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the development of Summer Schools within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the use of Summer Schools as part of the range of provision offered by Educational establishments and services be approved;
- (ii) that Head Teachers who wished to develop Summer Schools in full partnership with their staff be supported;
- (iii) that the Director of Education develop an expanded programme of Summer School provision for Easter and Summer 1998; and

- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EDUCATION RESOURCE SERVICE AND PUBLIC
LIBRARIES SERVICE (Item 6, Page 175)**

11. There was submitted a revised report dated 13 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which outlined the arrangements which had been made for the relocation of the Education Resource Service within the Public Libraries Service and which sought approval of the level of service which would be provided to Educational establishments and staff therein.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Education Resource Service be relocated within the Public Libraries Service with a service level agreement produced to outline services to staff in educational establishments;
- (ii) that Secondary School Librarians remain within the Education Service and report to the Head Teacher of the School; and
- (iii) that the report be referred to the Director of Community Services for consideration.

DEVELOPING APPROACHES TO THE ARTS IN THE EDUCATION SERVICE

12. There was submitted a report dated 19 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of recent and proposed development in the Arts within the Department of Education.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the recent Arts development in East Ayrshire Schools; and
- (ii) that a proposal for the establishment of an East Ayrshire Schools band and schools choir be approved.

Arising from queries regarding the above item, it was agreed that the Director of Education consider the feasibility of using venues across the authority for future educational arts events and ensure that adequate facilities were made for those pupils participating in arts activities.

EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY - TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM

13. There was submitted a report dated 20 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of recent developments in the Community Education Service and which outlined proposals for the future.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education undertake a review of the operation of the Community Education Service in line with Section 3 of the report;
- (ii) that a progress report be submitted by the Director of Education to the Education Committee by December 1997; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1997-2000 (Item 7, Page 2018)

14. There was submitted a report dated 13 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of slippage which had occurred in the Education Capital Programme in the current financial year and which recommended consequential action to be taken to alter the programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the slippage in the Education Capital Programme be noted; and
- (ii) that the amended Education Capital Programme totalling £1.7 million for the period 1997-2000 be approved subject to the allocations being finally agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee.

The meeting terminated at 1135 hours.